

ARTISANSHIP AND OPEN-AIR TRADE IN CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA*

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My article deals with the trading dimension in the artisanship process as it takes place in the 2000s Romania. The research is centred on the institution of folk fair, which is described at the level of five ethnographic museums in Bucharest, Sibiu, Timisoara, and Suceava. Artisans appear to be interested not only in the traditional transmission from generation to generation of their crafts, but also in meeting and keeping a clientele for the artefacts they make. Even though, at present, craftsmanship and rural farming are separate branches of peasant economy, in the past, the folk fairs and the agricultural markets were unified, in accordance with the needs for exchange among peasants in their native countryside.

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